

Malika Abdul-Basir

From: DAWN CAMPBELL <dawn.campbell1004@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 7:51 PM
To: Malika Abdul-Basir
Subject: HB 4863

Please be aware that Substance abuse is rampant in our society. There are many Substance abuse issues with Mental Health Clients but understand Mental Health Agencies have as their first priority Severe and persistent mentally ill and developmentally disabled consumers. Many of the people I serve in Substance abuse certainly have depression PTSD, anxiety and various other mental health issues that need treatment if we will even think about making a difference in their sobriety and their lives. Mental Health Agencies across the State are cutting down their out patient departments and serving fewer and fewer of these clients. They don't have General Fund dollars to serve these folks and many people with Substance abuse issues don't qualify for medicaid, medicare nor do they always have health insurance. Many are chronically physically ill and haven't worked for some time. I have worked in Mental Health for 27 years and now am a private therapist working with substance abuse. Mental Health Agencies traditionally has avoided indigent, and substance abuse clients. What in the world makes you think giving them more money will make a difference in their ingrained philosophy that they only serve the severe and persistent mentally ill and developmentally disabled. People with Substance use disorders will slip through the ever widening cracks in the Mental Health Standard of Care.

Sincerely:
Dawn S Campbell LMSW, CAADC.